

EVALUATION OF SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE INFESTATIONS
ON THE GLENWOOD DISTRICT, JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, VIRGINIA

By

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INTRODUCTION

A biological evaluation of southern pine beetle was made on the Glenwood District, Jefferson National Forest, during the first week of October, 1975. The infestation on the District is a continuation of the outbreak that began there in 1973 and is part of the southwide outbreak that now involves 13 states. The District has conducted suppression projects for the past two years.

METHODS

A 100 percent aerial sketchmap survey and ground checks were made according to standard procedures.^{1/} Representative spots were examined to confirm the identity of the causal agent, determine numbers of infested trees, and estimate the general condition of the beetle populations.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Insect - Southern pine beetle, *Dendroctonus frontalis* Zimm.

Hosts - Southern pine beetle is a native forest pest that will attack all species of southern yellow pine. However, loblolly pine, *Pinus taeda* L., and shortleaf pine, *P. echinata* Mill., are the preferred hosts.

^{1/} Detection of forest pests in the Southeast. 1970. USDA, USFS, SA, S&PF, Div. of FPM, Pub. S&PF-7, Atlanta, Ga. 51 pp.

Type of Damage - Death of the tree is the result of mining in the cambium by the southern pine beetle as it constructs egg galleries. The beetle also introduces blue stain fungi, *Ceratocystis* spp., which slow down or block conduction of water in the stem. The size of an infestation may range from a single tree to several thousand trees.

Life Cycle of the Beetle - Southern pine beetles attack in pairs and construct a winding gallery in the cambium. Eggs are deposited in niches along the sides of the galleries. The eggs hatch into whitish grubs that further mine the cambium and then construct cells in the bark where they pupate and change to adults. The new adults then mine through the bark to emerge. The complete life cycle takes about a month during the summer, and as many as four or five generations may be produced annually in the area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 shows the portion of the Glenwood District with southern pine beetle infestations. The survey data is summarized in Table 1. Beetle populations continue high on the District. Beetle activity remained rather static until relatively late in the summer, but populations are now increasing rapidly as evidenced by the high proportion of green infested trees. Continued suppression of the insect is advisable to reduce pine mortality as much as possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended southern pine beetle suppression methods are described in the 5250 section of the Forest Service Manual as follows:

1. Removal of Infested Trees by Commercial Sale or Administrative Use. When infested trees of merchantable size are accessible, they should be removed by commercial sale or administrative use procedures. Logging of the infested material should begin immediately. Contract time limits should insure rapid removal.

Where practical, and if host type is present, a 40- to 70-foot buffer strip should be marked and cut adjacent to and ahead of the most recently infested trees. This practice is effective in reducing the possibility of "breakouts". When only a small volume of infested merchantable material occurs in a spot, noninfested trees surrounding the spot may be marked to provide an operable cut.

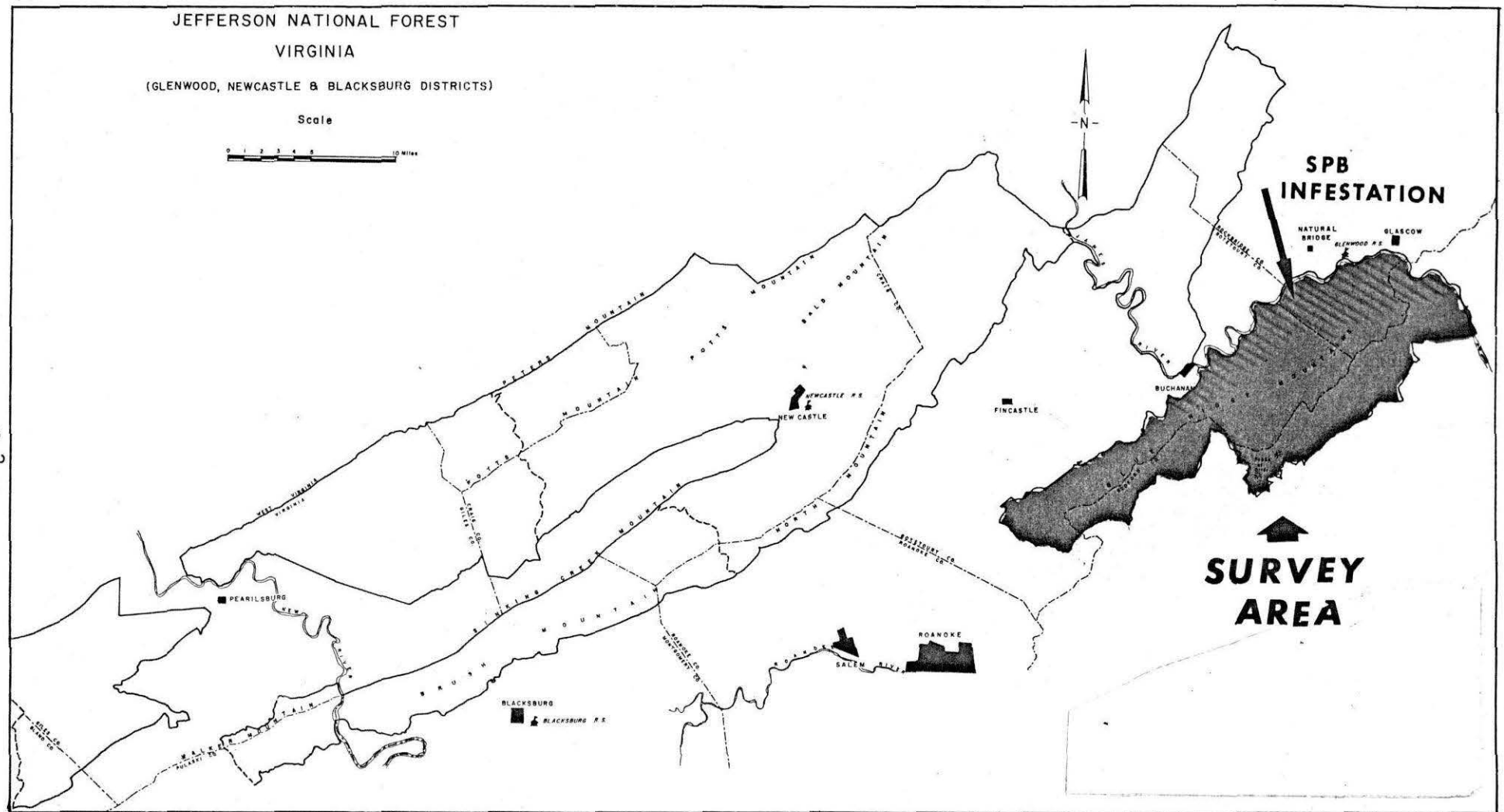


Figure 1. Distribution of southern pine beetle infestation on Glenwood District, Jefferson National Forest, 1975.

Table 1. Summary of aerial and ground data for the Glenwood District, Jefferson National Forest.

		Ownership Unit
		Glenwood Ranger District
1. Results compiled from data collected during the aerial phase of the evaluation:		
Survey type		Sketchmap
Date of aerial survey		9/29/75
Total acreage surveyed (National Forest Only)		87,400
Total susceptible host type(on National Forest)		3,322
Total number of spots within the survey boundary		100
Spots per M acre of host type		30.1
Average spot size (trees)		89
Range of spot sizes (trees)		1-500
2. Results compiled from data collected during the ground and aerial phases of the evaluation:		
Date of ground phase		10/1/75
Infested trees per M acre of host type		1,335
Total number of infested trees within the survey boundary		6,475
Ratio of green infested to total red and fading trees		1.5:1
Total volume of infested trees (cu. ft.)		76,405

The order of priority for removing beetle infested timber from a spot should be as follows:

Trees having nearly developed broods (usually the red and fading trees).

Trees having young broods (usually the green, recently infested trees).

Trees in the buffer zone.

2. Piling and Burning. Unmerchantable or inaccessible southern pine beetle infestations can be suppressed by cutting, piling, and thoroughly burning the bark of infested trees. The entire bark surface must be thoroughly burned to insure effective control. The order of priority for cutting, piling, and burning infested trees, particularly in large spots, is the same as paragraph (1) under removal of infested trees by commercial sale or administrative use. Cutting a buffer strip is not recommended. To reduce the possibility of "breakouts" every effort should be made to locate and treat all green infested trees during the piling and burning operation.
3. Chemical Control. Chemical formulation recommended for southern pine beetle control is a 1/2 percent Lindane spray with No. 2 fuel oil as the carrier. This may be formulated from a 20 percent Lindane emulsifiable concentrate or oil concentrate at the rate of 11 pints of concentrate in enough fuel oil to make 55 gallons of spray. (Ratio of one part 20 percent Lindane EC to 39 parts No. 2 diesel fuel).

Cut, limb and buck all infested trees into workable lengths. Spray the infested bark surface to the point of run-off. A compressed air sprayer (3-gallon capacity or equivalent) is an ideal applicator. Infested logs must be turned two or three times to insure complete treatment of infested bark. Spray stumps and bark removed by woodpeckers. Low pressure sprayers may be used to treat large, accessible infestations.

The order of priority for cutting and spraying infested trees in large spots is the same as paragraph (1) under removal of infested trees by commercial sale or administrative use. Cutting a buffer strip is not recommended. To reduce the possibility of "breakouts" every effort should be made to locate and treat all green infested trees during the chemical control operation.

Never spray trees from which southern pine beetle brood has emerged. Natural enemies of the southern pine beetle in these trees can then complete their development. To prevent aerial spotters from mapping treated spots cut trees with red needles from which beetles have emerged.

Instructions for minimizing the adverse effects of mixing, transporting and storing pesticides, applying pesticides and disposing of pesticide containers and excess chemicals are outlined in section 8.3 of the Forest Service Health and Safety Code and FSM 5242.21. Detailed safety procedures should be outlined in the project suppression plan.

4. Reexamination of Treated Areas. Reexamine areas where infested trees were removed by commercial sales, piled and burned or chemically treated within two or three weeks after treatment to check for additional infested trees. If additional trees are found, treat them.

The District has had problems with spot breakouts where tree cutters have been slow to remove infested trees, and the possibility of broadening the buffer strip beyond 70 feet has been raised. The priority objective is elimination of the spread potential of the beetles in a spot. With prompt action, the 70-foot buffer strip should normally be adequate for this purpose. If delayed cutting cannot be prevented, some other approach will be necessary. If possible, trees to be cut might be designated anew when the cutter begins operations.

PRECAUTIONARY PESTICIDE USE STATEMENT

Pesticides used improperly can be injurious to man, animals, and plants. Follow the directions and heed all precautions on the labels.

Store pesticides in original containers under lock and key -- out of the reach of children and animals -- away from food and feed.

Apply pesticides so that they do not endanger humans, livestock, crops, beneficial insects, fish, and wildlife. Do not apply pesticides when there is danger of drift, when honey bees or other pollinating insects are visiting plants, or in ways that may contaminate water or leave illegal residues.

Avoid prolonged inhalation of pesticide sprays or dusts; wear protective clothing and equipment if specified on the container.

If your hands become contaminated with a pesticide, do not eat or drink until you have washed. In case a pesticide is swallowed or gets in the eyes, follow the first aid treatment given on the label, and get prompt medical attention. If a pesticide is spilled on your skin or clothing, remove clothing immediately and wash skin thoroughly.

Do not clean spray equipment or dump excess spray material near ponds, streams, or wells. Because it is difficult to remove all traces of herbicides from equipment, do not use the same equipment for insecticides or fungicides that you use for herbicides.

Dispose of empty pesticide containers promptly. Have them buried at a sanitary land-fill dump, or crush and bury them in a level, isolated place.

NOTE: Some States have restrictions on the use of certain pesticides. Check your State and local regulations. Also, because registrations of pesticides are under constant review by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, consult your county agricultural agent or State Extension specialist to be sure the intended use is still registered.